(d) During the last year 1896 frontline demonstrations were conducted on Paddy and 2020 on Wheat. Further, during the same period 17076 Quintals of seeds of Paddy and 15525 Quintals of seeds of Wheat were produced by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras for availability to the farmers.

During the year 2004-05,13,502.20 Quintals of Breeder Seed of Wheat and 2,571.53 Quintals of Paddy were produced for further production of foundation and certified seeds.

(e) and (f) Per hectare productivity of wheat and paddy in some Western and far East countries is higher due to very long growing season, use of large quantity of fertilizers and less effects of drought, flood and extreme temperatures (abiotic stresses).

Several steps and initiatives have been taken to enhance the productivity further, such as, increase in the seed production of improved and latest varieties, front line demonstrations of technology, resource conservation technology, mechanization, training, integrated management of insect pests and diseases and nutrients.

Allowing imported deep sea fishing vessels in EEZ

*148. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing a policy to allow imported deep sea fishing vessels on deferred payments to fish in our EEZ;

(b) if so, the number of such trawlers which fished in 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(c) whether Government are aware that new conditions and new restrictions make it impossible for such ventures to succeed and the spirit of the original policy is being vitiated;

(d) the objectives of such activities; and

(e) the steps proposed to adopt a pro-active role?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Letters of Permission (LOPs) have been issued so far for import of 95 deep sea fishing vessels of different types including 20 trawlers. The number of deep sea fishing vessels, including trawlers, which fished in Indian waters in 2003-04 and 2004-05 was 30 and 43 respectively.

(c) to (e) The conditions and restrictions imposed are only to protect the spirit of the policy that the vessels should be Indian owned and the country's interest should be protected. No conditions or restrictions are imposed which make it impossible for such ventures to succeed.

Permission to import deep sea fishing vessels on deferred payment basis, allowing a liberal percentage of foreign crew on board these vessels, extending the facility of fuel at international rate through mid-sea bunkering, facilitating mid-sea transshipment of catch are some of the pro-active steps taken by the Government to promote this sector.

Making KVK system contemporary

*149. SHRIMATI S.G.INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to make Krishi Vigyan Kendra system contemporary;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government had set up Agriculture Technology Management Agencies in several districts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government has taken the following steps for making the KVK system contemporary:-

Providing a multidisciplinary team of subject matter specialists, infrastructural facilities, and instructional farm to facilitate Teaching by doing' and 'learning by doing'.

Provision of electronic connectivity to 200 KVKs during X Plan for availability of technology information to the farmers.

Providing Soil and Water Testing facilities to 326 KVKs during X Plan.

(c) The Government has approved for implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms' through establishment of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) in 252 districts by the State Governments during X Plan.

(d) The State Governments have set up ATMAs in 203 districts. The State-wise details of number of ATMAs are given in the enclosed statement.